



British Colonization of Australia

Essential Question:

**How did English
exploration and
colonization impact
Australia?**

Standards:

- **SS6G14a.** Explain the impact of English colonization on the language and religion of Australia.
- **SS6H9a.** Explain the reasons for British colonization of Australia; include the use of prisoners as colonists.
- **SS6H9b.** Explain the impact of European colonization of Australia in terms of diseases and weapons on the indigenous peoples of Australia.

Summary:

- **English Captain James Cook claimed the Australian south-east coast for Britain in 1770.**
- **Britain decided to use Australia as a penal (punishing) colony for convicts**
- **A system of deportation had been in place for some time as a way of easing overcrowding of English jails. After the American Revolution, Britain could no longer use the colonies in North America as a place to send exiled prisoners**

Summary:

- **Over the next several decades, more than 150,000 prisoners were transported to Australia**
- **The Gold Rush of 1851 and the growth of sheep farming brought more and more free settlers to Australia**

Summary:

- **Europeans brought devastating diseases, such as smallpox, with them**
- **Since the Aborigines had no immunity to these “new” diseases, large numbers died**
- **Conquest of the indigenous peoples became easier because of the weakened, smaller population**

Summary:

- **Many Aborigines were forced off their land, and some were killed**
- **Surviving Aborigines were discriminated against and had few rights**
- **Aborigines who did fight stood little chance of winning due to the advanced weapons, such as guns, used by the British**

Summary:

- **European colonization impacted Australia's language because even today the majority of Australians speak English**
- **European colonization impacted Australia's religion because a large majority of Australians practice some form of Christianity like the Europeans**



Describe the reasons & impact of European colonization in Australia.